4. how many complaints about his partialities in his official duties and how many about his personal character ?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—The Government do not consider it worth while to go through the records of so many years to find out the information sought.

From the files forthcoming, it is found that there were complaints against the Sub-Magistrate, and that they were found to be groundless. His transfer from Cranganur was in the exigencies of service and not on account of any petition.

455. Mr. M. K. Raman.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

have the Government come to know that parties who appear in his court are complaining to the District Magistrate and to other authorities that Mr. P. Govindan Nayar is showing undue favour to certain class of women who figure as parties in his court; if the answer is in the negative, will the Government be pleased to make enquiries in the matter?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—A petition to transfer a case in which the interpellating Member appeared as a Vakil was recently received by the District Magistrate containing allegations of the sort adverted to in the question. The District Magistrate characterised the allegations as absolutely unfounded. No other petitions have been received.

456. Mr. M. K. Raman.— Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) has it come to the notice of the Government that a suit has been filed by a Nayar woman of Perumanur, Ernakulam, against Mr. P. Govindan Nayar, Sub-Magistrate, claiming maintenance from him, and that Mr. Govindan Nayar made a private settlement with her evidencing the transaction by a registered document, paying her a certain sum of money to hush her up;

(b) if the answer is in the negative, will the Government be pleased to make enquiries in the matter, inasmuch as Mr. Govindan Nayar is an officer of the Government, armed with magisterial authorities, the proper exercise of which will be very much influenced by the state of his conscience ?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—(a) This part of the question refers to the conduct of the Sub-Magistrate in his private capacity, and is removed from the cognisance of the Council by Rule 8 (c) of the Cochin Legislative Council Rules.

(b) The question is hypothetical and cannot be answered.

The vending of arrack and toddy.

457. Mr. A B. Saiem.—Will the Government Member for Excise be pleased to state:—

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(i) the number of arrack and toddy shops now existing in the State as on the 1st of Meenam 1102;

(ii) the reduction in the number of toddy and arrack shops that are to be made at the beginning of the next year;

(iii) (a) the number of licenses for sale of foreign liquor as on the 1st of Meenam 1102;

(b) and the number that are to be reduced in the coming year;

(iv) the limit of age of persons engaged in the transport or sale of alcoholic beverages;

(v) has the Government prohibited the sale of arrack or toddy to minors;

(vi) has the Government prohibited the sale of arrack to adult women;

(vii) what is the limit of possession of arrack now manufactured or imported into the State?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—(i) (a) Number of arrack shops: 241.

(b) Number of toddy shops: 441.

(ii) Eleven arrack shops and twelve toddy shops.

(iii) (a) The Member is referred to the answer to question No. 107 of the Vrischigam sitting of the current session.

(b) Cannot be stated now.

(iv) Fourteen years of age. It is proposed to prohibit, from the 1st of Chingam 1103, the sale or transport of liquor by persons below 18 years of age.

(v) Yes.

(vi) Yes.

(vii) The limit of possession of arrack without a license is 6 drams.

The circular regarding appointments of Muhammadans and Ezhuvas in the service.

458. Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether any orders or instructions have been issued during the year to the Heads of Departments or other officers in the State concerning the appointment of Muhammadans or Ezhuvas in the State service; if so, will the Government kindly place on the table copies of such orders or instructions?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Yes. The Government have issued certain instructions to the Heads of Departments, concerning the appointment of Ezhuvas in the State service. A copy of these instructions is placed on the table. (*Vide Appendix II.*)

459. Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Will the Government be pleased to state what induced them to issue the orders or instructions mentioned in 458;

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